

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5147

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 14874

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, GE

SUBJECT: GAUS-HONECKER MEETING IN EAST BERLIN,
SEPTEMBER 16, 1974

REF: BONN 14772

1. USUALLY WELL-INFORMED SOURCE HAS PROVIDED PRELIMI-
NARY INFORMATION ON SEPTEMBER 16 MEETING IN EAST BERLIN
BETWEEN FRG PERMANENT MISSION CHIEF GAUS AND EAST
GERMAN PARTY CHIEF HONECKER. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT
HONECKER REPORTEDLY MADE A PROPOSAL THAT THE PACKAGE
OF OUTSTANDING FRG-GDR NEGOTIATIONS (REFTEL) NOW BE
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CONSIDERED READY FOR DETAILED CONSIDERATION BY EXPERTS.

TO LAUNCH THIS MOVEMENT IN INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS, HONECKER IS SAID TO HAVE OFFERED TO IMPLEMENT, SOMETIME WITHIN THE NEXT THREE WEEKS (PERHAPS, NOT COINCIDENTALLY, JUST BEFORE THE TWO LAENDER ELECTIONS IN THE FRG ON OCTOBER 27) ELIMINATION OF THE COMPULSORY CURRENCY EXCHANGE REQUIREMENT FOR OLD-AGE PENSIONERS WISHING TO VISIT THE GDR. (FYI. THESE PENSIONERS ORIGINALLY DID NOT HAVE TO EXCHANGE CURRENCY BUT THIS WAS CHANGED WHEN THE GDR DOUBLED THE EXCHANGE REQUIREMENT IN LATE 1973. END FYI).

2. GAUS FLEW TO BONN ON SEPTEMBER 17 TO BRIEF THE CHANCELLERY ON THE GDR OFFER. SCHMIDT AND HIS CHANCELLERY COLLEAGUES REPORTEDLY LIKED THE PROPOSAL AND PUT IT TO BERLIN'S GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ AT A DINNER IN BONN ON SEPTEMBER 18. SCHUETZ REPORTEDLY REACTED NEGATIVELY, ARGUING THAT THE FRG WOULD APPEAR TO BE COMPROMISING ITS POSITION RE THE ILLEGALITY OF THE GDR'S ORIGINAL CURRENCY DOUBLING REQUIREMENT. HE SAID THE FRG SHOULD HOLD OUT FOR THE GDR'S RETURN TO THE ORIGINAL EXCHANGE REQUIREMENT FOR ALL VISITORS TO THE GDR. HE IS SAID TO HAVE ARGUED FURTHER THAT HE COULD NOT DEFEND A LIMITED GDR MOVE ON CURRENCY REQUIREMENTS IN THE FACE OF THE INEVITABLE CRITICISM HE COULD EXPECT FROM THE WEST BERLINERS. HE POINTED OUT TO SCHMIDT, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THAT THIS WOULD BE AN UNWELCOME COMPLICATION IN THE SPD'S CAMPAIGN FOR THE BERLIN ELECTIONS NEXT SPRING. WE UNDERSTAND THAT, IN THE FACE OF SCHUETZ'S VIEWS, THE CHANCELLERY DECIDED TO REVIEW THE WHOLE AFFAIR BEFORE DECIDING HOW TO PROCEED FURTHER.

3. COMMENT. WHETHER OR NOT THE FRG DECIDES TO PUSH AHEAD DESPITE SCHUETZ'S OBJECTIONS, HONECKER'S REPORTED APPROACH TO GAUS TENDS TO CONFIRM THAT THE GDR LEADERSHIP IS PREPARED FOR SOME FORWARD MOVEMENT IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE FRG, JUST AS BONN OBSERVERS RECENTLY PREDICTED TO US (REFTEL).

HILLENBRAND

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